

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/809,527

Examiner

Dana Ross

Applicant(s)

BAKER, IAN J.

Art Unit

3722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 8/21/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious a mounting arrangement for (claim 1) or method of (claim 11) simultaneously machining opposite faced of a component which may retain residual stresses, specifically wherein the combination of limitations specifically includes the arrangement consisting of three clamp pares to enable residual stress relief as the component is machined wherein each clamp pair comprises two members relatively movable to engage and hold the componenet and further incorporating a damper to augment vibration control otherwise diminished by the contact abutment clamping.
3. The closest prior art is US Pat. No. 4,964,766 (Turchan et al., hereafter '766), US Pat. No. 5,680,801 (Keller, hereafter '801), and US Pat. No. 3,975,030 (Akeel et al., hereafter '030).
4. '766 teaches three clamp pairs with clamping and seating pads on either side of the workpiece 2 (see figure 14, for example); push clamps 25, 26 opposite locating pins 22, 21, dampening device 23, 24, movable locating pin structure 27 with hydraulic cylinder 40 and rubber support pin 32 (see col. 5, line 42 through col. 7, line 23 and figures 2 and 14 for example); wedge lock clamp 6 (see figure 9A, for example) that clamps and dampens vibration along the z-axis (col. 3, lines 63-64, for example).

'766 includes two push clamps 25, 26, one wedge lock clamp 6 and two clamps 42 and only the two push clamps are permitted movement whereas the wedge lock clamp is used for vibration damping purposes and the clamps 42 are used to retain the cartridge bodies.

'766 does not disclose the arrangement consisting of three clamp pares to enable residual stress relief as the component is machined wherein each clamp pair comprises two members relatively movable to engage and hold the component and further incorporating a damper to augment vibration control otherwise diminished by the contact abutment clamping.

Therefore '766 does not anticipate the claimed invention of independent claim 1 or 11.

Furthermore, there is no motivation found to modify '766 to use only three claimed clamp pairs as claimed and to do so would destroy the workability of the '766 invention.

5. '081 teaches a workpiece clamp with vibration dampening rods 14 and movable clamp 6 with non-movable clamp support 62 and support 60 with clamp 5 to hold workpiece 2 in position.

Whereas '081 teaches a damper 14, '81 does not disclose the specific claim limitations of the multiple point contact abutment clamping of a component as claimed.

Therefore '801 does not anticipate the claimed invention of independent claim 1 or 11.

Furthermore, there is no motivation found to modify ''801 to have the specifics limitations of the multiple point contact abutment clamping of a component as claimed, and to do so would destroy the workability of the '801 invention.

6. '030 teaches a workpiece clamp which has three clamp pairs 24 (see figure 2, for example).

However, '030 also has clamp pairs 28(see figures 2 and 3, col. 2, lines 53-68) and does not teach the limitations of the damper as claimed.

Therefore '030 does not anticipate the claimed invention of independent claim 1 or 11.

Furthermore, there is no motivation found to modify '030 to have the specifics limitations of the "consisting of three clamp pairs" with the limitations as claimed and to include the damper as claimed and to do so would destroy the workability of the '030 invention.

7. Furthermore, there is no prior art, either alone or in combination with '766, 801 or '030 that would render obvious the claimed invention, and no motivation found to modify the prior art to obtain the claimed invention, and furthermore, to do so would require hindsight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

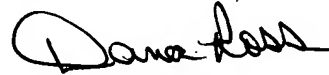
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dana Ross whose telephone number is 571-272-4480. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Examiner
Art Unit 3722


dmr